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A  
LETTER  
TO  
CHARLES BONNER, Esq.

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LETTER

TO

CHARLES BONNER, Esq.

DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

OF THE

POST OFFICE



BY MR. PHILIP JACKMAN

Postmaster, I enclose a copy of the report of the Committee on the subject of the proposed amendment to the Act relating to the Post Office, which I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of.

Yours very respectfully,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Secretary of the American Anti-Slavery Society

A  
LETTER  
TO  
CHARLES BONNER<sup>O</sup>, Esq.  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
OF THE  
POST-OFFICE.

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By Mr. PHILIP THICKNESSE.

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Ingratitude is a crime of so deep a dye, that no man  
was ever yet known who would acknowledge himself guilty  
of it.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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LONDON,  
Printed for S. W. Fores, Piccadilly

1792.

CHARLES BONNER Esq

SIR,



N O T being  
distinguished in the event, relative to  
the dispute between you and Mr. Palmer, I  
shall only observe that, until the other side is  
heard, it seems you had good reason to dis-  
solve the friendship that had for some time  
subsisted between you and your patron; but  
you have made use of an expression (page 24  
of

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T O

CHARLES BONNER, Esq.

S I R,

**N**OT being a party, and, consequently, uninterested in the event, relative to the dispute between you and Mr. Palmer, I shall only observe that, until the other side is heard, it seems you had good reason to dissolve the friendship that had for some time subsisted between you and your patron ; but you have made use of an expression (page 24

B of



of your late publication) which I call upon you to explain.

You say, "I have hitherto been so fortunate as to conduct myself through life in such a manner as to add frequently and considerably to the number of my friends; and I can, with as much truth as honest pride, declare, that I never, in the course of my life, forfeited the esteem of any one individual *whose friendship was worth retaining.*"

Yes, Sir, you have forfeited my friendship; the publick, before whom you have announced this high encomium on yourself, shall judge, whether Mr. Palmer's conduct has been more ungrateful to you, than yours has been to me.

That

That my friendship may not now, in *your* opinion, *be worth retaining*, I will readily allow; but your forfeiting it will not, I believe, acquit you of the crime of ingratitude, even among *the considerable number of your acquired friends*. Most men encrease the *number of their friends* in proportion to their prosperity; my friendship to you was only in the days of your adversity; therefore answer me, candidly and fairly, the following queries; or leave out, in your next edition, the following words, viz. "*That I never, in the course of my life, forfeited the esteem of any one individual whose friendship was worth preserving.*"

Query I.

Did not an acquaintance of yours at Bath, some years since, at a time when you was out of all manner of employment, desire me to see and hear you give a specimen of your *theatrical talents* ?

Query II.

Did I not afterwards request your quondam friend, Mr. Palmer, a much better judge than I pretended to be, to hear you also ? and did he not, *at my request*, introduce you on the Bath stage ?

Query III.

Did you not, soon after, complain to me, that, though you offered to relinquish one half  
of



of your salary towards the gradual payment of your debts, that your creditors were so cruel as to refuse so fair and reasonable an offer?

Query IV.

Did I not then send you over to Calais; give you a warm letter of recommendation to a French officer of rank, requesting him to countenance, favour, and protect you? and did I not allow you, weekly, money enough from my own purse sufficient to support you and your wife, until, *to use the vulgar phrase*, you was completely *white-washed*, and able to return with safety to your Bath engagements?

## Query V.

Have you forgot the very extraordinary letter you wrote to Mr. Palmer, in which you requested him to advance you ten *guineas*, and in which you proved, *upon paper*, that you could travel to Paris and back again to Calais, you and your wife, for that sum?

## Query VI.

Did you, when you returned to England, even offer, when able, to pay me the money I had weekly assisted you with when at Calais? or have you, since your income has been four times greater than mine, ever make such a tender?

Query

## Query VII.

Did you subscribe to my late published Memoirs?—You may truly answer and say, “Yes, I sent *my name*, but it was rejected.” I will inform you the reason why *your name* was rejected; because *two* names instead of *one* should have been sent. Mrs. Bonner partook of *my* soup and bouillé at Calais as well as you, Mr. Bonner.

When the late Duke of St. Albans was married, he sent *one* bride knot to his uncle Lord George Beauclerck. His Lordship returned it, insisting upon it that it was a mistake, that the Duke should have sent two or none, as his Lordship had a wife,  
 though

though, perhaps, not so good a wife as Mrs. Bonner.

### Query VIII.

Did I not, at a Bath auction, bid for a lot consisting of two fwords, a side sword and a Highland broad sword? and did not you buy that lot from me, and then tell me, that you wanted only the side sword for the stage? and did I not tell you, I wanted only the broad sword for my bed chamber?

Did you offer the latter to me? if you had, I would have paid for the whole lot. It was that little omission by which you lost the good-will and esteem of a man whose friendship, it seems, *you then thought not worth retaining.*

The

The following anecdote, in page 267 of the first volume of my Memoirs, I need not tell you who it alludes to, because when that was published I did not know that I stood in the list of your *worthless*, though I knew I was one of your *neglected friends*.

#### Query IX.

One Query more, and I have done. Why, if I was so unworthy of your notice, did you reclaim my acquaintance, last summer, at *Boulogne*? I assure you, when you did, I was a stranger to your name, and had almost forgot your person; one would naturally have thought, when you was again in *that kingdom*, on a jaunt of pleasure and expence, you should have remembered it was not the



*same motive* which carried me thither; and that you ~~THEN~~ and ~~NOW~~ stand indebted to me for the bread you ate when you had none other.

That Mr. Palmer has been ungrateful to you, I have REASON ENOUGH TO BELIEVE, and you fairly call upon him to shew wherein you merited his neglect; he had served you, and you have publicly called upon him "to shew why, for some time past, he carried a deceitful face, and gave you his hand while he with-held his heart." Now I call upon you, Mr. Bonner, who never served me, to say, why I am numbered among those of your friends, whose regard was not "*worth retaining?*"

Anecdote

and  
 that you  
 me for the dead you are when you had none

Anecdote extracted from the first volume  
 of Thickneffe's Memoirs, published by Fores  
 in Piccadilly, 1788.

" ANECDOTE OF AN ITINERANT PLAYER.

" About eight or ten years since, a young  
 " man was brought to me, who was thought  
 " to possess some theatrical talents; and the  
 " specimens he gave me of it were such as  
 " induced me to recommend him to the  
 " manager of a theatre who employed him,  
 " either upon my opinion or his own, at a  
 " small weekly salary. At that time, the  
 " man, who I think had been bred a coach-  
 " maker,

“ maker, owed some money, and honestly  
 “ proposed to his creditors to give them up  
 “ a moiety of his little income till they were  
 “ paid ; but that proposal was rejected, and he  
 “ was obliged to fly to France, and there re-  
 “ main till he could be what is, I think,  
 “ called *white-washed*. I thought his case  
 “ hard, and his creditors unreasonable, and  
 “ therefore gave him a letter to a French  
 “ officer, and a weekly allowance to main-  
 “ tain him there out of my own pocket, *till*  
 “ *the whiting had been put on*. The offi-  
 “ cer to whom I had written in his favour,  
 “ being very desirous of obliging me, went  
 “ to him one morning in a great hurry, and  
 “ informed him according to the French  
 “ manner of expression, *that he had procured*  
 “ *him* A PENSION, meaning thereby a family  
 to

“to board with.—Procured me a pension!  
 “replied the young comedian, you astonish  
 “me! pray Sir how much is it? Forty  
 “pounds a year for you and your wife.  
 “Good God! Sir, how shall I reward you!  
 “you have laid me under an everlasting obli-  
 “gation: what a lucky man I am, first to  
 “find a friend to send me into a foreign  
 “country and there to find a stranger to serve  
 “me so effectually.

“The Frenchman, who had been too  
 “long accustomed to hear such expressions  
 “made use of for trifling favours, did not  
 “perceive that the Englishman was thank-  
 “ing him for procuring him and his wife  
 “a portion during life of forty pounds a  
 “year; but after a little conversation the  
 “matter was explained on both sides. If

C

“ this

“ this man was not so lucky on the *other* side  
 “ of the water as he had, for a time, believed,  
 “ he has had it amply made up to him on *this*  
 “ side, since his return; for he now holds a  
 “ place under government said to be worth a  
 “ thousand pounds a year, and yet his name  
 “ does not appear among the list of my sub-  
 “ scribers! He sent to me, indeed, but not  
 “ properly : and, besides, it is not the first  
 “ time that he\* (Mr. Bonner) has reminded  
 “ me of a very just observation, that ingratitude  
 “ is a crime of so deep a dye, that no one ever  
 “ was found hardy enough to acknowledge  
 “ himself guilty of it : though, I am apt to  
 “ believe he was intimidated from doing it by  
 “ his comedian-master (Palmer), whom I  
 “ have often seen in his blue sleeves dipping

\* In the original Mr. Bonner's name is not mentioned ;  
 not even the initials of it. But Mr. B. has, in his scur-  
 rilous reply, ventured to assert the contrary.



"candles at a greafe tub; but that was all  
 "fair, and should not have been noticed here,  
 "had he conducted a negotiation between  
 "a father and a son with truth, candour,  
 "or justice. But low birth, however culti-  
 "vated, will always have a smack of it;  
 "neither good luck nor good company can  
 "do them quite away."

Now, Mr. Bonner, as I before hinted in  
 this letter, leave those few words out in the  
 next edition of your publication; and then  
 you will not only escape any further censure  
 from me, but shall still have the good wishes,  
 for your happiness and future prosperity, of,

your humble servant,

*Bath.* PHILIP THICKNESSE.  
 March 9, 1792.

310 P. S. Since the foregoing letter was announced to the publick of being in the press, Mr. Bonner has wrote me a very long letter; from which the few following extracts are copied. "As soon," says Mr. Bonner, "as I was acquainted with your having proposals in circulation, I requested of the bookseller that my name might be set down; I meant neither more nor less, than to offer an humble proof of the sense I entertained of your former kindness to me." But Mr. Bonner seems to have forgotten, nay, he denies, that when he went to Calais an utter stranger, that he went with a power to receive, on MY ACCOUNT, a regular weekly allowance, with a string of recommendations to friends of mine, to shew him favour! He then says, that after I had rejected his name as a subscriber, he was "given to understand that I had determined to make him a subject of one of my chapters, but that he could not stoop to any thing capable of being construed into an attempt to smother or suppress whatever it might be the design of any man to publish respecting him \*." Again, says he, "I was quite astonished when you asked me

\* Is not this a very indecent insinuation? and where is Mr. Bonner made the subject? was he the only itinerant player? is his name mentioned, or even the initials of his name pointed out in the original? and, if they were, where is the crime to relate an innocent and natural mistake.

" at

“at *Boulogne*, whether I had sent you a *Bank-note* if you had received under a blank cover. It struck me,” he says, “as something very *extraordinary*, because I was ignorant of any pretence you could have for imagining, or I for doing, such a thing.” It seems, therefore, I have said *the thing that is not*; and that what all Bath knew to be true *then*, is false *now*; but as *Monf. Omera*, an old French officer of rank, *Mr. Paine*, of York house, *Dover*, and *Monf. Carmier*, an eminent Wine-merchant at *Calais*, are still living, they are the persons whose memory may be appealed to. Most certainly *Mr. Bonner* owes me nothing. What he had of me was a free gift. But I too am astonished to hear *Mr. Bonner* *now* say, in his unexpected, and apparently humble epistle of the 17th instant, “I should have been as happy to have subscribed for *two* sets as *one*, or for *ten* sets as *two*.” Now if this is not “attempting to smother or suppress whatever I might have to say concerning him,” for what purpose did he write me this letter?

PHILIP THICKNESSE.



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